



Washington Update

May 24, 2006

Welcome to my Washington Update, an e-mail newsletter for the constituents of California's 29th Congressional District. Through these quick-read updates, I hope to keep you informed of progress being made in Washington, D.C. and at home on public policy issues of interest to our communities.

Discuss the Genocide in Darfur in a National Online Town Hall Meeting

I am pleased to invite you to participate in an on-line town hall meeting about the genocide in Darfur hosted by the Democratic Caucus of the U.S. House of Representatives on Thursday, May 25th at 1:00 p.m. In addition to a panel of members of the Caucus who will also be participating, a Sudanese refugee has been invited to attend to share his story and respond to questions.

Sudanese government soldiers and members of the government-sponsored militia have driven millions from their homes, and have terrorized, raped, and murdered hundreds of thousands. The living conditions in the Darfur region are deplorable, with scores of civilians dying each day from malnutrition and the lack of clean water and adequate health care.

A national discussion of our role in stopping the genocide is long overdue. This on-line meeting will give members of the Caucus the opportunity to participate in a discussion of our nation's role in stopping the genocide in Darfur, a discussion that is long overdue; to listen to the concerns of the American people about this terrible situation; and explore and develop an agenda for action.

If you would like to participate, please visit my website at www.house.gov/schiff on Thursday, May 25th, 2006 at 1:00 pm. You may also [submit questions](#) in advance or a comment by visiting the website. If you cannot participate, the Democratic Caucus will prepare a transcript of the town hall meeting. For your convenience, and that of your friends and neighbors who may also be interested in the proceedings of this meeting, I will post a link to the transcript on my website at www.house.gov/schiff.

Schiff is Original Coauthor of Bipartisan Legislation to Combat Computer Crimes and Ensure Data Security

Representative Adam Schiff has announced that he has joined in introducing bipartisan legislation that would better combat cyber crime and protect data security. In an era of increasingly sophisticated computer technology, the "Cyber-Security Enhancement and Consumer Data Protection Act of 2006" (H.R. 5318) would provide better data security protections for both individuals and businesses and give to law enforcement the tools they need to successfully track and prosecute cyber criminals.

Commenting on the need to provide greater cyber-security Rep. Schiff stated, "Criminals are increasingly using new technologies to prey upon their victims. As they adapt to these new opportunities to defraud, we must develop new ways to track them down and put them away. This legislation will help better protect Americans and American businesses from the costly effects of cyber crime and identity theft."

To read more about H.R. 5318 please [click here](#).

Schiff, Wolf Call on Egyptian President to Release Political Opponent from Jail and Promote Democracy

On Wednesday, May 17th Representatives Adam Schiff (D-CA) and Chairman of Science, State, Justice, and Commerce Appropriations Subcommittee Frank Wolf (R-VA) wrote a letter to Egyptian President Muhammad Hosni Mubarak asking him to release democracy activist and opposition politician Ayman Nour from jail. Mr. Nour is serving a five year sentence for forgery.

Mr. Nour, leader of the al-Ghad party, ran for President of Egypt against Mr. Mubarak on a platform that called for greater democracy and freedom in Egypt. His prosecution on forgery charges was seen by independent observers as an attempt by the Mubarak government to enhance its political position by discrediting a secular, democratic opponent. In January 2005, Rep. Schiff authored a resolution condemning the arrest of Mr. Nour and called on the Egyptian government to release Mr. Nour immediately. The resolution was passed unanimously by the House International Relations Committee in March 2005. Rep. Schiff also sent a letter to President Mubarak in January 2006, in the immediate aftermath of Mr. Nour's conviction, asking for the Egyptian president to free the opposition politician.

To read the letter sent to President Mubarak please [click here](#).

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